GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINES
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:103
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2016
Mineral Exploration
Raut Shri Vinayak Bhaurao;Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to carry out mineral exploration in a planned and time-bound manner and if so, the details of mineral exploration targets fixed during 2015-16 and 2016-17 and achievement made, mineral-wise;

(b) whether the Government is aware of the role being played by the geoscientists in upscaling the level of exploration in the country and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps/ initiatives taken/being taken by the Government to encourage the geoscientists to contribute their best for harnessing natural resources for development of the country?

Answer

(a) to (c) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

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STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.103 REGARDING MINERAL EXPLORATION ASKED BY SHRI VINAYAK BAURAO RAUT AND
DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE FOR ANSWER ON 2ND MAY 2016

a) Yes. Geological Survey of India (GSI), an attached office of the Ministry of Mines, takes up mineral exploration work through its annual field season programs (FSP). GSI also ensures that regional and detailed exploration is carried out systematically in a time bound manner following the United Nations Framework Classification (UNFC) guidelines (G4, G3, G2 & G1 stages of exploration). Further, GSI carries out off shore mineral investigation in the territorial waters (TW) and exclusive economic zone (EEZ) of India using its research vessels as per its annual field season programs.

Apart from GSI, the Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research (AMDER), a constituent of Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), is carrying out exploration in a planned and time-bound manner to identify and evaluate reserves of minerals, such as, uranium etc. required for successful implementation of Nuclear Power Program of the country.

Besides, Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL), a PSU under Ministry of Mines is also carrying out exploration by promotional funding of Ministry of Mines and Ministry of Coal as per plans and timelines set by the government.

The details of the target and achievements of above three agencies are given below.

Mineral wise Target vs Achievement of GSI for FS 2015-16, and Target for FS 2016-17 is Annexed.

Mineral-wise physical targets and achievements of AMD, DAE

Activities Target
(2015-16) Achievement
(2015-16)
As on Feb 2016 Target (2016-17)
Uranium investigations
1. Airborne Survey (L. km.) 90,000 15,392.20 1,10,000
2. Reconnaissance Survey (sq. km.) 3,900 3,904 3,100
3. Geochemical Survey (sq. km.) 2,600 2,825 2,000
4. Detailed Survey (sq. km.) 225 203.20 207
5. Ground Geophysical Survey (sq. km.) 500 577.72 500
6. Drilling (m) 1,92,200 1,65,412 1,57,400
Rare Metal and Rare Earth investigations
1. Reconnaissance Survey (sq. km.) 400 510 400
2. Detailed Survey (sq. km.) 4 13.34 4
Beach Sand Heavy Minerals investigations
1. Reconnaissance Survey (sq. km.) 100 111.92 75

2. Detailed Survey (sq. km.) 8 9.66 4
3. Drilling (m) 8,000 12,192 6,500

Mineral-wise physical targets and achievements of MECL

Sl. No.
Mineral FY 2015-16 FY 2016-17
Target Actual Achievement Target
Drilling (in m) Drilling (in m)
Through promotional funding of Ministry of Coal
1 Coal 62,500 35,216 40,000
2 Lignite 24,750 52,304 25,000
Through promotional funding of Ministry of Mines, Mineral Exploration Fund (MEF) and National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET)
3 Gold 2560 2868 3,000
4 Copper 5260 3439 5,000
5 Lead - Zinc & Copper 1280 108 -
6 Molybdenum - 2894 1,000
7 Potash - 166 5,000
8 Iron - - 7,500
9 Limestone - - 1,500
Through contractual funding by various agencies
10 Coal 2,56,682 2,82,787 3,82,000
11 Lignite - 567 -
12 Iron 13,668 17,694 46,000
13 Bauxite 10,000 2,074 -
14 Copper 3,300 2,359 4,000
15 Limestone 5,000 0 -
Total 3,85,000 4,02,476 5,20,000

b) Yes. GSI continuously upgrades the knowledge and skill of its geoscientists and upgrades its equipment of field survey and laboratories as per the global practice. Besides, DAE with its conceptual geoscientific modelling and innovative multi-faceted exploration strategy is augmenting atomic mineral resources on a regular basis.

c) Geoscientists of GSI are provided with the state-of-the-art training, the logistic support, latest field equipment and laboratory support for achieving the objectives of the projects or activity they are involved in as per the field season programs (FSP). Besides, the government also encourages collaborations with global exploration agencies for knowledge sharing and technological upgradation. DAE encourages its geoscientists through award of degrees, merit based promotions, additional increments and various training programs. It also lays emphasis on collaborative programs between the DAE personnel and scientific community outside DAE.

Further, for encouraging geoscientists, the prestigious National Geoscience Awards in various categories are also given every year by the Ministry of Mines for outstanding contribution in various fields of Geoscience including mineral discoveries and exploration.

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ANNEXURE REFERRED IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.103 REGARDING MINERAL EXPLORATION ASKED BY SHRI VINAYAK BAURAO RAUT ANDDR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE FOR ANSWER ON 2ND MAY 2016

Commodity wise Target vs Achievement of GSI for FS 2015-16 and Target for FS 2016-17

Target vs Achievement for FS 2015-16 Target FS 2016-17
Group Commodity No. of Programs LSM in sq km DM in sq km Drilling in m No. of Programs LSM in sq km DM in sq km Drilling in m
Target Achvmt. Target Achvmt. Target Achvmt. 5,500 103 1,13,000
Ferrous Iron 13 624.00 730.00 7.34 6.70 12500 5150.05 24
Manganese 2 3.50 3.50 8
Chromite / Chromium 2 50.00 50.00 2

Non-Ferrous Basemetal 25 835.00 872.00 11.95 12.18 17100 12022.60 25
Bauxite 5 50.00 50.00 6.50 6.55 1980 2022.25 12

Precious Gold 22 775.00 805.00 11.50 10.43 8106.70 6450.55 24
Diamond 9 50.00 50.00 4
PGE 8 400.00 400.00 1.50 1.50 2800. 2607.65 2
Cobalt 1 100.00 102.00 -

Strategic Tin, Tungsten, Molybdenum 8 200.00 208.00 8.90 9.05 3500 2492.85 6
REE & RM 14 935.00 946.00 6.50 6.90 1500 921.70 13

Fertilizer Potash 1 150.00 97.00 300 130.00 2
Glauconite 3 200.00 200.00 1.00 1.00 1000 1015.00 2
Gypsum 3 225.00 227.00 1.00 1.00 -
Phosphorite 1 100.00 100.00 0.75 1.85 200 0.00 -

Industrial Dunite 1 5.00 5.00 800 757.95 -
Graphite 3 55.00 55.00 0.75 0.76 3000 3378.05 2
Limestone 8 225.00 204.00 38.50 38.05 11200 9870.75 22
Pyrophyllite 1 100.00 100.00 -
Andalusite 1 1.00 1.22 2000.00 1994.05 2
Sandstone 1 50.00 51.00 -
Dimension Stone 1 50.00 55.00 -
Glass Sand 1
Barite 1
Quartzite 1
Clay 1

Coal & Lignite Coal 28 699.98 614.98 47500.25 45149.11 19
Lignite 7800.00 8852.40

TOTAL 160 5873.98 5916.98 105.69 105.69 1,21,286.95 1,02,814.96 173 5,500 103 1,13,000
Preliminary Mineral Investigation within EEZ (in sq km) 11 15,000 15,819 17 25,000

LSM − Large Scale Mapping, DM − Detailed Mapping, PGE − Platinum Group of Elements, REE & RM − Rare Earth Elements & Rare Metals,
EEZ − Exclusive Economic Zone